**\*Was there a particular way of knowing that was most important in the decision about whether Data was the property of Starfleet?\***

In this essay I will be talking about a Star Trek episode called ‘measure of man’. I will discuss whether there is a particular way of knowing way of knowing from sense perception, emotion, language or reason if ‘data’ is property of Starfleet.

The first way of knowing I would like to talk about is reason. In this episode reasoning is used by Captain Picard. Captain Picard asks the robot expert what are 3 ways that you can tell something is human. He tells Captain Picard that the 3 ways of knowing are; intelligence, self-awareness and consciousness. Data, the robot, is able to prove all three of these things. Does this make him human? In a way it does because he was able to prove all three definitions of being ‘human’ yet he is still an android.

In this episode commander Riker used two main ways of knowing. He used reasoning and sense perception. He uses sense perception by getting Data to bend a piece of steal that no human possibly could. This way of knowing is sense perception because humans know for a fact that this is not possible to be done by man and has been proved many times. Another way that Riker used sense perception was when he removed Data’s hand. Data did not show or feel any pain when Riker did this. This shows that Data is a robot and not human as a human would have felt extreme pain if their hand was removed.

Commander Ricer and Captain Picard show us language as a way of knowing. They do this by asking Data questions. When data responds to the questions he is asked he replies with ‘I’ meaning he is self-aware. During this time of the episode data also explains that he knows that he was made by a human and not out of flesh and bones like normal humans. Here again we are shown that Data is a robot. Emotion is not used a lot in this episode, but data does show signs of intimacy and lust.